



Application No. 10/511,754

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement drawing sheets make changes to Figs. 8-10 and 12, and replace the original sheets containing Figs. 8-10 and 12.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-9 and 12-22 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the specification, Figs. 8-10 and 12, and claims 1, 5, 9, and 13 have been amended. Claims 2, 3, 10, and 11 are hereby canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 21-22 are added. No new matter is added.

I. Objections to the Drawings

Figs. 8-12 are objected to for failing to have a legend. Replacement drawing sheets for Figs. 8-10 and 12, with a proper legend, are attached hereto. However, the objection to Fig. 11 is respectfully traversed. Fig. 11 is a diagram for explaining stray light projected around a projection image from a projector. Thus, Fig. 11 is an illustration of the stray light problem to be solved and does not specifically illustrate prior or related art. Withdrawal of the objection is thus respectfully requested.

The Office Action further objects to the drawings as not showing every feature specified in the claims. This objection is respectfully traversed. An example of the plate member having a slit extending from an outer rim toward the opening of claims 6, 14, 17, and 19 is shown in Fig. 3 (reference 10), Fig. 4A (reference 10), and Fig. 4B (reference 10A). Withdrawal of the objection is thus respectfully requested.

II. Objections to the Specification

The Office Action objects to the abstract of the disclosure because it has more than one paragraph. Because the Preliminary Amendment filed October 19, 2004 included a substitute abstract in proper single paragraph format, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action objects to the specification as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the plate member having a slit extending from an outer rim toward the opening of claim 6, 14, 17, and 19. This objection is respectfully traversed.

The specification provides proper antecedent basis for the plate member having a slit extending from an outer rim toward the opening. The Office Action asserts that "[o]nly the shielding device is shown and taught to have slits." However, the specification notes that "the light shielding device can be preferably formed of a frame-shaped plate member or a pair of plate members." See [0022]. Additionally, the specification discloses that "the plate member has a slit extending from the outer rim toward the opening." See [0023]. These disclosures provide sufficient basis for this claimed feature. Therefore, since it is disclosed that the light shielding device may be a single frame-shaped plate member that may have a slit, withdrawal of the objection is requested.

III. Support for Claim Amendments

Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of claims 2 and 3, as well as for better clarity. Support for amendments to claim 1 can be found at least in original claims 2 and 3, and Fig. 5. Claim 5, indicated by the Office Action to be allowable, has been rewritten in independent form. Claim 9 has been amended to include the features of claims 10 and 11. Support for amendments to claim 9 can be found at least in claims 10 and 11, and Fig. 5. Claim 13, indicated by the Office Action to be allowable, has been rewritten in independent form. New claims 21 and 22 depend from claims 1 and 9, respectively, and recite the subject matter of former claims 5 and 13, respectively.

IV. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1-4, 6-12, and 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,320,709 to Kitabayashi et al. ("Kitabayashi"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended claim 1 is not anticipated by Kitabayashi. The relationship recited in amended claim 1 is not present in Kitabayashi. While the Office Action asserts that Fig. 8 clearly shows "that applicants' claimed relationship holds true," Fig. 8 of Kitabayashi merely

discloses a front view of an interposed frame assembly 62, constituted by stacking intermediate frame member 55 and fixing frame member 54. Fig. 8 does not show the modulators 40. Moreover, Kitabayashi does not disclose any measurement or dimensions corresponding to d_1 . Therefore, Kitabayashi cannot anticipate "the relationship $d_1 < d_3 \leq d_2$ holding, where the direction of d_1 , d_2 , and d_3 are in the same axial direction, where d_1 is length in at least one of two axial directions perpendicular to a direction of light travel of an image formation area of the *modulators*," as recited in amended claim 1 (emphasis added).

Thus, for at least these reasons, amended claim 1 is patentable over Kitabayashi. Further, claims 4 and 6-8, which depend directly or indirectly from amended claim 1, are patentable over Kitabayashi for at least the reasons discussed with respect to amended claim 1.

Amended claim 9 is not anticipated by Kitabayashi for the same reasons discussed with respect to amended claim 1. Moreover, claims 12 and 14-16, which depend from amended claim 9, are patentable over Kitabayashi for at least the reasons discussed with respect to amended claim 1.

Withdrawal of the rejection is thus respectfully requested.

V. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Office Action's indication that claims 5, 13, and 17-20 include allowable subject matter if rewritten in independent form. Claims 5 and 13 have been amended to be rewritten in independent form and to include all of the limitations of their base claims. Thus, withdrawal of the objection to claims 5 and 13, as well as the objection to claims 17-20 which variously depend from claims 5 and 13, is respectfully requested.

VI. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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